

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claim 20 is pending in the present application. Claim 20 has been amended and Claims 1-19 and 21-27 have been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101; Claims 9-13 and 22-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 9-11, 13-15, 18, 19, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Danieli (U.S. Patent No. 6,510,513); Claims 1-8, 12, 16, 17, 19, 21, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Danieli in view of Rubin (U.S. Patent No. 5,638,446) and Lofgren et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0037313, herein "Lofgren"); and Claim 20 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form to include the features of its base claim and Claims 1-19 and 21-27 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. In addition, the specification has been amended to refer to items 12B-16B and 21A-24A as suggested by the outstanding Office Action. No new matter has been added. Thus, it is believed that the objections to the drawings have been overcome.

Regarding the remaining rejections, it is believed that these rejections are moot because the rejected claims have been cancelled.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

EHK:RFF\dt\ys

Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
Remus F. Fetea, Ph.D.
Limited Recognition No. L0037

I:\ATTY\RFF\21S\216413\216413US-AM.DOC